

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

EXCLUSIVE

EYES ONLY

71 AUG 20 20 10

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

71 AUG 20 PM 4:10

**TOP SECRET SENSITIVE 271913Z AUG 71 VIA BUNKER CHANNELS,
EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY**

**FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
TO: AMBASSADOR BUNKER
CITE: WHS1373**

SUBJECT: DOLE COMMENTS ON MINH WITHDRAWAL

1. WIRE REPORTS STATE THAT "UNIMPEACHABLE SOURCES" ARE TELLING THE PRESS THAT WE ARE THREATENING REDUCTIONS IN U.S. AID TO VIETNAM BECAUSE OF MINH'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE RACE. THIS SOURCE IS APPARENTLY SENATOR DOLE WHO IS ALSO REPORTED AS HAVING WARNED THEM DURING YOUR MEETING WITH HIM OF THE CRITICAL REACTION FROM CONGRESS.

2. I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT IN THE PRESENT FLUID SITUATION, SUCH THREATS OF REDUCTION IN U.S. AID COULD HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES. WE WILL RESTRAIN COMMENTARY HERE TO REGRETS OVER MINH'S WITHDRAWAL UNTIL THE SITUATION CLARIFIES AND YOU HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO REPORT EVENTS AND YOUR VIEWS FURTHER.

3. REQUEST THAT YOU CONTACT SENATOR DOLE IMMEDIATELY AND TELL HIM TO CEASE ALL COMMENTS CONCERNING THE IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY OF MINH'S WITHDRAWAL. THIS, OF COURSE, APPLIES ALSO TO U.S. MISSION WHICH, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, SHOULD FOLLOW ITS CORRECT LINE EXPRESSING REGRET THAT MINH HAS WITHDRAWN WITH NO FURTHER COMMENT.

WARM REGARDS.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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